

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

Claims 6-20 and 33 are pending in this application.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the objection to the drawings.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 35 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-10, 20 and 33 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 6, 20 and 33 have been amended to place them in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 11, 12, 13, 18 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 6, and therefore claims 7-19 should be found to be allowable since each of these claims relates back to allowable claim 6 as a base claim. Accordingly, claims 6-20 and 33 should be the allowed claims after entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

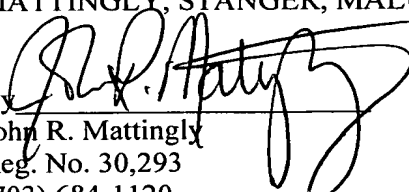
Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlmann, U.S. Patent No. 6,269,481 B1; claims 21, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman in view of Kageyama, U.S. Patent No. 5,303,336; and claims 11-19 and 24-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearlman in view of Kageyama and further in view of Gase, U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177. Claims 1-5 and 21-32 and 34-36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By 
John R. Mattingly
Reg. No. 30,293
(703) 684-1120

JRM/so
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